

The Brooklyn Paper

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A BRIDGE TOO NEAR

City to neighbors upset by revamp plan: Deal with it

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

The city is ignoring pleas from Brooklyn Bridge neighbors who asked to be spared a lane change that would bring bridge-bound cars closer to their doorstep.

The Department of Transportation rejected a series of demands made by Adams Street residents to modify its revamp plan for the run-up to the borough's most iconic span, which is supposed to make the area less congested and safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Adams apartment-dwellers-turned-activists, who dread the car traffic coming one lane closer to their buildings, said that the city made a show of listening to their concerns about in-



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

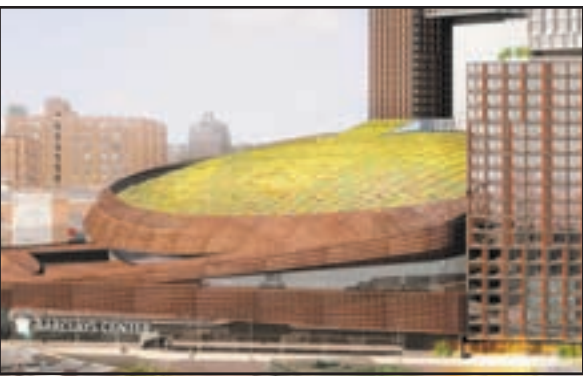
Adams Street resident Kamila Kiszko wants the city to rethink its plan to overhaul the run-up to the Brooklyn Bridge.

creased noise while planning to run roughshod over the suggestions the whole time.

"The DOT had their plan all along," said Peter Liuzzo, a resident of the Concord Village complex, where most of the dissent is coming from. "It's been a sort of charade as far as listening to public comments."

The road agency sent a letter to Downtown's Community Board 2 on March 31, explaining planners' decision to not incorporate the changes called for when the board conditionally approved the proposal back in February. The city did make some revisions to the plan, called the Brooklyn Bridge Gateway Proj-

See **BRIDGE** on page 9



Forest City Ratner

Developer Forest City Ratner and its Chinese-government partner say a green roof on top of the Barclays Center will muffle noise from big-ticket events.

TOP FORM

Green roof planned to help noise-proof Barclays Center

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

The Barclays Center is going green.

The Prospect Heights arena is set to get a massive vegetal roof that mega-developer Forest City Ratner says will beautify the view for future Atlantic Yards tenants

and help quell neighbors' concerns about the bass boom of concerts and sports events.

"The roof is an amenity, but we acknowledge, of course, that it will probably do something about sound if we have that issue again," said Forest City Ratner spokes-

See **ROOF** on page 3

City to lower Atlantic Ave. speed limit to 25

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Avenue of Death and Destruction is getting the go-slow treatment.

The city's transportation department announced on Wednesday that it would reduce the speed limit along the whole eight-mile length of Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn to 25 miles per hour. Atlantic, the brutal and deadly nature of



MEAN Streets

The battle for Brooklyn's byways

which The Brooklyn Paper examined in an in-depth report last week, will be the first of 25 major thoroughfares

in the city to have its speed limit lowered ahead of additional car-slowing measures. Roads czar Polly Trottenberg said that the push to pinch drivers will save lives.

"Crashes on these roads tend to be more deadly," Trottenberg said at a press conference to announce the plan in Lowry Triangle, a tree-lined plaza at the intersection of Underhill, Washington, and Atlantic avenues. "We're

really going to work to make Atlantic Avenue safer."

Trottenberg, a resident of the Atlantic-bordering neighborhood Cobble Hill, said her department would also retime the traffic lights, work with cops to step up enforcement, and explore potential changes to the road's design, including the expansion of medians to reduce crossing distances.

The move to revamp the arterial street

all the way from the New York Harbor to just beyond the Queens border is part of Mayor DeBlasio's Vision Zero plan to reduce traffic deaths to zero by 2024.

Thomas Chan, the police department's transportation chief, said officers at local precincts have been trained to help crack down on speeding and other

See **ATLANTIC** on page 9



Danielle Legg works on an embroidered kitty at a Cat Lady Craft Night thrown by Brooklyn Craft Company.

They're fur real

Greenpoint cat ladies get crafty

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

This craft night was purr-ific. More than 60 kitty-loving craftswomen gathered last weekend in Greenpoint for the Brooklyn Craft Company's Cat Lady Craft Night. Feline fandom is taking the place of another popular form of critter fas-

cination among do-it-yourselfers, according to the event's organizer.

"I personally am a total cat lady, and the whole lady cat thing is an exploding trend right now. It's the new 'put a bird on it,'" said Brett Bara, owner of Brooklyn Craft Company, referring to the famous sketch on the

See **CATS** on page 10

Fallas penetrates Fulton Mall

Conway's new moniker raises eyebrows

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

This Fulton Mall department store's new handle really sticks out.

The Conway discount clothing store between Jay Street and Red Hook Lane changed its name last week after more than 20 years — to Fallas. We figured we would give the new handlers the benefit of a doubt and ask if the fresh label is not

pronounced the Spanish way — "fah-yah-s."

"No. It's fa-luss," an employee, who asked not to be named, explained.

A California company called National Stores bought the Conway chain in January and rechristened the stores. Their official full name is Fallas Paredes, which translates to "failure walls" in Spanish. National Stores runs more than

200 Fallas outlets around the country, including 14 in New York now that the Conway deal has gone through. A worker at the Fulton Street location said the company is keeping all of the Conway staff.

The store's racks have been switched out, but its employees and clothing stock remain much the same and, so far, many long-time customers have not

See **FALLAS** on page 3



The sign on the new Fallas department store Downtown still says "Conway," the store's previous incarnation.

State is going to bat for 'em

Bridge project's arborcide — for sake of night flyers

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The state is looking bat to the future.

State workers cut down 53 trees last week to make way for the massive, \$1-billion rebuilding of the Kosciuszko Bridge — and to spare the Northern long-eared bats that might roost in the trees later in the year. The breed is an endangered species.

"It is important to be environmentally responsible during all of our construction projects, especially when dealing with endangered species," state



transportation department commissioner Joan McDonald said in a statement. "Removing the trees prior to nesting season will allow the bats to find safe, secure locations through the year while ensuring that the contractor selected for the Kosciuszko Bridge replacement project will not need to de-

lay construction on this critical infrastructure project."

The Northern long-eared bat is a tiny mammal — adults grow to 3.7 inches max — with habitat on the East Coast from North Carolina to Maine. Colonies with young bats range in size from 30 to 60 bats. During the winter, the bats hibernate in caves and mines and, when the weather warms, they set up camp in trees. Federal regulations require agencies within the bat's turf to cut down trees before April 1 to protect the winged creatures from being liqui-

See **BATS** on page 9



Sign of spring

Young lady ball players from a Saint Francis Xavier Youth Sports team march through Park Slope at a Little League opening day parade on April 5.

Tal Barzilai speaks!

Pleasantville provocateur makes appearance

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

A longtime fan of our website and chronic comment-section pot-stirrer showed his face in real life at a road-safety hearing last week and, true to form, what followed was controversial.

A man who shares a name the name with prolific BrooklynPaper.com commentator Tal Barzilai from Pleasantville, N.Y. made an in-the-flesh appearance at a Borough Hall meeting on Mayor DeBlasio's Vision Zero

plan to reduce traffic deaths to zilch. Dedicated readers took to Twitter to voice their excitement at apparently seeing Barzilai, known for his lengthy, combative posts about why pedestrians and cyclists should face ramped-up traffic enforcement from police, at the Downtown event, 39 miles from his supposed Westchester County home.

"OMG he's real!" road-safety advocate David Dartley tweeted during the meeting. "The man, the legend, Tal Barzilai."

The online Barzilai's provocations on the subject of bike-riding and walker accountability, opponents to which he regularly equates with apologists for the Palestinian political party Hamas, often drive Reader Feedback threads below Brooklyn Paper articles to more than 50 comments. Nor is his prolific output limited to our illustrious news website.

A commentator named Tal Barzilai has also spewed opin-

See **TAL** on page 9



BrooklynPaper.com comment section regular Tal Barzilai at Borough Hall.

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To renewed Heights

Promenade mainstay gets makeover

By **Matthew Perlman**
The Brooklyn Paper

A Brooklyn Heights staple is back and better than ever.

The Heights Cafe, which has sat near the Brooklyn Heights Promenade at the intersection of Montague and Hicks streets for 20 years, reopened on Monday after a six-week overhaul. Owners tested the waters over the weekend with a soft opening and it turned out better than they had hoped.

"We thought we'd do it quietly," said Greg Markman, who owns the neighborhood mainstay along with his father, brother, and childhood friend. "It was full throttle everyday."

The makeover was a first for the popular brunch spot, and included the installation of new wood floors, cozy booths, a bronze mesh ceiling, and a sleek curved bar. The owners brought back the restaurant's original interior designer Randi Halpern to do the job.

"We wanted to keep the



Photo by Jason Speckman

Heights Cafe server Raffinee Koski presents the roast cod grandmere and the beefsteak and kumato tomato salad.

place fresh and revitalize it," said Markman. "We want it to be a place people feel comfortable calling a second home —

or a second kitchen."

The menu also got a sprucing-up, with former Henry's End chef Rob Weiner add-

ing a number of seafood dishes to compliment the classic Heights Burger and strip steaks. Weiner wants to make sure there is something in the offering for everybody, including the regulars from around the corner and visitors going for a stroll on the promenade.

"We have a mix of tourists and locals," Weiner said. "We're trying to balance out the menu to satisfy everyone."

The sidewalk seating at Heights Cafe often fills up in the warmer months as people stop for a meal before taking in some of the best views in Brooklyn from the end of Montague Street. Markman said it was important to open up just as the weather is improving.

"It's perfect timing," he said.

On a block that sees a lot of restaurant turnover, Heights Cafe's run is impressive.

The success results from a combination of good food, friendly staff, and great customers, Markman said.

"We've been here 20 years. I think that qualifies us as an institution."

Are they hearing the hospital?

The thing about hearings is there are the regular people, and there are the suits.

The regular people discuss traffic studies done while walking the dog, read poems about their neighborhood, and compare the architecture of the historic buildings located nearby. They are compelling, and the suits are rather dull in comparison, speaking in city planning jargon, without directly addressing the residents' complaints. (And they don't have any fun poems to recite.)

From the three-minute comments aired at a Board of Standards and Appeals on April 8, by a coalition of residents called Preserve Park Slope, you'd think Walmart is being built in Park Slope, or a suburban strip mall, or a jail. But it's actually an expansion of their local hospital. The same one that was there at the time they moved in, and the one that they are thankful is right around the corner when their family needs medical care.



From the Publisher's Desk

By **Celia Weintrob**

When speaking about the massive amount of air pollution that this expansion will unleash into Park Slope's atmosphere, or the safety issues facing local students, you'd be hard-pressed to believe it was a healthcare institution that was being discussed.

It boils down to this: New York Methodist is expand-

ing its facility, and has permission to do so with a larger and less attractive development than they are now proposing. Preserve Park Slope has raised many challenges and presented its own architectural alternative, calling on the hospital to build over its existing garage.

Preserve Park Slope's skepticism might be better grounded if it was anything other than a local hospital at stake.

The hospital's architectural team, which specializes in space use by medical facilities, gave concise explanations about why the garage-build plan would not work for the hospital: doing so creates a huge floor plan that will be difficult for frail patients to traverse, while New-Yor Methodist's plan calls for the surgical suites to be arranged around a central core. It would also mean a lot of additional machinery would be situated on the roof.

Notably, New York Methodist's plan calls for patient drop-offs, as well as a loading

dock for deliveries, to take place inside its existing footprint, to mitigate traffic and improve safety on the street. This could not take place with the garage-build plan.

I view this story through a Long Island College Hospital lens, where the death throes of the Cobble Hill hospital have been heartbreaking to watch. Much of that institution is located on extremely narrow streets, and its modern buildings could never be accused of matching the character of the surrounding brownstones. But there is no question that the surrounding communities will suffer as a result of it going away.

The construction phase of this development will be difficult for anyone living near the hospital. It will be for New York Methodist, too. But that would be the case regardless of which plan moves forward. Preserve Park Slope's members — and all Park Slopers — are fortunate to have a sound and thriving hospital in their midst.

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BROOKLYN NETS COVERAGE

Healthy at the right time

FRONT COURT
By Tom Lafe

For a team that has battled injuries all season long, the Nets sure have picked the best time to get healthy. Kevin Garnett returned to the starting lineup on Saturday night against the Philadelphia 76ers after missing 19 games due to back spasms, and all he did was put up a ho-hum 10 points on five-of-six shooting with four boards in just 13 minutes. More importantly, he directed the Nets defense on the court. Welcome back, KG. Also back in the lineup over the weekend was Andrei Kirilenko, whose length and scrappiness fit perfectly within Coach Kidd's small-ball style. He allows the Nets to make up for the team's lack of size and rebounding with deflections and tracking



Kevin Garnett is back, baby, and things are looking up!

down loose balls. Welcome back, AK47. If all holds firm in the Eastern Conference, the Nets are headed for a rematch of last year's first-round play-off series against the Chicago Bulls. Points in that series will come at a premium, and as good as Mason Plum-

lee has been in Garnett's absence, the Nets would prefer to have a former MVP and NBA champion calling the shots instead of a rookie. However, even with a healthy veteran frontcourt presence, the Nets still need the guys that got over the team's abysmal 10–21 start and into the playoffs to step up come playoff time. Andray Blatche, Mirza Teletovic, and Plumlee cannot defer to the Big Ticket because he has been there, done that. They need to remain aggressive and continue to create those match-up problems that have benefited them so well in 2014. With newfound health, Kidd will have even more options to create headaches for the Nets opponents. Tom Lafe is a 6-foot-5 sports-world insider with a middling high school basketball career who believes the Nets will be driven by the success of the team's big men.

Now, Nets are Heat-seekers

BACK COURT
By Matt Spolar

Nets General Manager Billy King said he had built Brooklyn's team specifically to take down the Miami Heat at the beginning of last season. He quickly found his calculations were way off. Brooklyn lost by an average of 21 points in three contests against Miami back then. The games were so lopsided that this column advocated intentionally losing games as the postseason neared, in order to fall to a playoff seed that would allow the Nets to avoid the Heat for as long as possible. What a difference a year makes. This season, Brooklyn played defending-champion Miami four times and, as of Tuesday, were victorious every time. The additions King made to the Nets during the offseason appear to have finally realized his goal of creating a Heat-seek-



The Nets have rejected the Heat in more ways than one this season.

ing squad. The key to the Nets' success against Miami has been the team's depth. In each

Pierce's big-game instincts would kick in, or Joe Johnson would get hot at some point. Mirza Teletovic exploding for 17 points in 16 minutes in Game Three, however, was less predictable. Same with Andrei Kirilenko's timely defense and hustle in Game Two. And Tuesday, it was Marcus Thornton stepping up with 16 big points (not to mention Mason Plumlee's huge last-second block on LeBron). After Brooklyn's one-point win this week, the Nets' 4-for-4 record against the Heat could start looking to some fans like a four-game sweep if the two teams meet in the Eastern Conference playoffs. Smart money would caution that Miami has proven to be a different beast in the postseason, but it is also reassuring that no one — not least, the Heat — seems capable of predicting who will emerge as the Nets' biggest threat on any given night. Matt Spolar is a nearly 6-foot-1 journalist with a middling high school basketball career who is sure the Nets win thanks to team's top-tier guards.

ROOF...

Continued from page 1 woman Ashley Cotton. "It was the right time to introduce this concept as an amenity for all of the residents that will be surrounding the arena, and for people of the community." Forest City Ratner is not sure when construction will start on the roof, according to Cotton, who would not say how much the addition will cost. Once it starts, the process should take about nine months and require three cranes, according to a company press release. The green roof will be partially funded by Greenland, the Chinese-government-owned developer that is buying the un-built portion of the hot-button development complex over and around the Long Island Rail Road train yard at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues. The emerald ceiling will be built on top of the existing roof and will offer a lush view for inhabitants of planned apartment

towers that will supposedly one day loom over the Barclays Center, but it is not a front lawn, Forest City insists. Residents and leisure-seekers will be barred from climbing around on the inviting turf, despite the ramp up to the window of one building and the 4-to-10-foot tall crawl-and-frolic space between the sod and the actual roof. The B2 skyscraper is the

only building in the project currently under construction. That 383-unit skyscraper, made by slotting prefabricated apartment boxes into a frame, will rise to 32 stories at the corner of Dean Street and Flatbush Avenue and include about 180 below-market-rate apartments. Forest City Ratner had originally planned a green roof as part of its bid to get Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification, an eco-friendly design standard overseen by the

U.S. Green Building Council, company head honcho Mary Anne Gilmartin said in a statement. The arena got its green certification without the flashy feature, but wanted a "more direct connection" to the plant-covered subway entrance in front of the arena, according to Gilmartin. The overhaul will apparently obscure the gigantic rooftop logo of British financial giant Barclays, which rigged international interest rates from 2005 to 2009.

FALLAS...

Continued from page 1 noticed much change. "The styles are a little different, but it's pretty similar," said Francesca Rodriguez, an East New York resident who has been shopping at the retailer for a dozen years and was browsing at the re-branded Fallas with her daughter. The 70-year-old Conway chain, which had its flagship

store on in Manhattan, operated an outpost on Fulton Street for more than 20 years, moving into the current storefront in 2010 from a smaller location up the block. The clothier lured people in with low prices on threads for kids and adults. "If I need to find a cute outfit, I know I can come down here and get it," said Rodriguez. "It's affordable."

The store conversion will be complete in the next couple of weeks, according a staffer. In the meantime, the provocative new moniker will take some getting used to. "Conway was a fixture for Downtown Brooklyn," said Gordon Glover, who walked to the store from his home in Cobble Hill. "Fallas ... Fallas ... Fallas ..." he said, trying the new name on for size. "It'll grow on you, I guess."



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Keeping Brooklyn Healthy Contest Winner!

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The Brooklyn Hospital Center

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MONTHLY HEALTH TIPS
from New York Methodist Hospital

Gains in the Fight Against Post-Operative Pain

By Soheila Jafari, M.D, Chief of Pain Management
New York Methodist Hospital

The last time I had a surgical procedure, nearly 15 years ago, I spent five days in the hospital on heavy I.V. pain medications. My pain was reduced, but I still felt terrible, as the medication made me nauseated and groggy. I'm about to undergo another procedure that is going to involve a hospital stay. Can you suggest any options for pain that have few side effects?

Two centuries ago, or even two decades ago, my answer to your question may have been no. Opioids (such as morphine) were first prescribed to treat pain during the Renaissance, and have been used continually since then because they have always been effective at relieving pain. In certain cases, opioids still have an important role in pain management.

However, as you have experienced, there can be unwelcome side effects. In addition to their potential for creating dependency, intravenous and oral painkillers can hinder a patient's ability to recover from surgery or other procedures. Side effects of opioids include shallow breathing, confusion, dizziness, sleepiness, lightheadedness, nausea, vomiting, and constipation. These side effects are unpleasant and they can also keep a patient from getting out of bed at a time

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Affordable Housing Development Opportunity in the East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn

The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) is inviting developers to submit proposals for a new construction project in the East New York section of Brooklyn.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be available starting April 7, 2014 on HPD's website (www.nyc.gov/hpd). Respondents can download the RFP at no charge and must register online to receive any updates or additional communications regarding the RFP.

A pre-submission conference will be held at HPD, 100 Gold Street, 1R, New York, NY on April 23, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Interested organizations are strongly encouraged to attend the conference. If you are planning on attending the conference, please RSVP at the email address below. People with disabilities requiring special accommodations to attend the pre-submission conference should contact Arielle Goldberg at the email address below.

All proposals are due in hand no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 11, 2014. Detailed instructions are provided in the RFP. All communications must be IN WRITING to:

Arielle Goldberg
NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development
Division of Planning, Marketing and Sustainability
100 Gold Street, Room 9G-5
New York, NY 10038
Livonia2RFP@hpd.nyc.gov

Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Alicia Glen
Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development
Vicki Been, Commissioner, HPD

ATLANTIC YARDS PUBLIC HEARING

Empire State Development is holding a public hearing, in connection with the Atlantic Yards project, to consider: the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (“DSEIS”) for the Project; and the March 2014 Proposed Amendment to the Project’s 2009 Modified General Project Plan.

TAKING PLACE:

Wednesday, April 30, 2014
5:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Long Island University
Room HS 107
75 DeKalb Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

The hearing is open to all persons. Visit Empire State Development’s website for: access to the documents; instructions for submitting comments; and a protocol for the conduct of the hearing. http://esd.ny.gov/subsidiaries_projects/AYP.html

For more information contact: Derek Lynch, Manager of Atlantic Yards Project Government / Community Relations
AtlanticYards@esd.ny.gov

Crash turns crime scene D'town

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown

Cops are looking for a 36-year-old woman who they say stole the tools out of a man's auto after getting into a car crash with him near the intersection of Schermerhorn and Bond streets on March 21.

The 37-year-old victim stated that the collision happened at 9:20 am and, when he realized he did not have his driver's license, he left on foot to go look for it, handing his keys over to the woman to show that he would come back. When he returned he found his tools — which included a full toolbox, two circular saws, and a drill — missing from his car, according to a report.

The woman told him she had the tools, and that he would not get them back unless he paid for the damage to her vehicle, cops said. He did not agree, and the lady took off, the report says.

Rumble

Cops are looking for two 17-year-olds who they say beat up and robbed another youngster on Hoyt Street on March 24.

The 15-year-old victim told officers he was at the corner of Bergen Street at 2:30 pm on his way home from school when two ruffians grabbed him from behind. One of the punks started punching him in the face and demanded he “run his pockets,” police said. The kid coughed up his cellphone and a Michael Kors watch and the pair of scoundrels pushed him to the ground and kicked him, cops said.

Mean girls

Five teen girls attacked a fellow student in McLaughlin Park on March 27, cops said.

The victim reported she was in the park near the intersection of Jay Street and Cathedral Place at 3 pm, on her way home from school, when the bullies surrounded her and pounced, leaving her with scratches on her face and a bump on the head, according to a police report.

Filcher thwarted

Cops cuffed a 15-year-old who they say snatched another teen's cellphone in front of an Adams Street school on March 25.

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

The victim, also 15, said he was standing between Fulton and Johnson streets at 2:40 pm when he pulled his phone out his pocket. The suspect snagged the device and ran, but was stopped by a guidance counselor before he got very far, police said.

Smith & weapon

Cops are on the lookout for a 26-year-old man who they said robbed a Smith Street grocery store at gunpoint on March 26.

The 37-year-old clerk said the gunman entered into the store, between Dean and Bergen streets, at 4 am wearing a black jacket, a hooded sweatshirt, and a face mask. The bandit leveled a silver gun at the worker and ordered him to put all the money and his cellphone in a bag, police said.

The victim did what he was told and handed over the sack, then was marched to the bathroom by the stick-up man, who fled the scene on foot, according to reports. The villain absconded with \$400 and the clerk's cellphone, cops said.

Race case

A group of galoots accosted a 32-year-old white guy, cursing him and calling him “cracker,” then stealing his wallet in Brooklyn Heights on March 21, cops said.

The victim told authorities he was walking on Pierrepont Street between Clinton Street and Cadman Plaza West at 10:30 am when the fearsome foursome approached.

“What are you doing here, white boy?” one of them asked, according to a report.

Another member of the crew taunted him and tossed out the racial insult, the report says.

The victim forked over his wallet on command, cops said.

State smash

A fiend busted down the door of an apartment on State Street on March 28 and stole a laptop, police said.

The 47-year-old victim reported he left the building between Third and Flatbush avenues at 8:45 am and, when he came back three hours later, the deed had been done, cops said.

Free section

A gang of sneaky so-and-sos stole a man's motorcycle from a Gold Street garage on March 27, cops said.

The victim had been trying to sell his 2006 Yamaha on Craigslist and met with two connivers the day before it was stolen from the garage between Concord and Tillary streets, according to a police report.

The cretins did not buy the bike, but the garage manager saw them come back the next day at 1:35 pm and roll it into a blue truck, according to authorities.

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene–Clinton Hill

Huge haul

A burglar emptied out the U-Haul a man left parked on Park Avenue under the Brooklyn Queens Expressway between March 30 and 31, cops said.

The victim told cops he parked the rented truck between Clermont Avenue and Adelphi streets at 11:30 am and, when he returned at 1:15 the next afternoon, the back gate was open and the truck was empty. The truck contained multiple television sets, a tablet, a laptop, some clothes, and a Rolex watch, officers reported. The stuff was worth \$50,300, according to a report.

Wrestlemania

A lowlife put a 25-year-old man in a chokehold and stole his wallet on Park Avenue on April 2, according to cops.

The victim told authorities he was near Carlton Avenue, walking home from a bar at 1:30 am, when the fiend snuck up behind him, grabbed him around the neck, and snatched his wallet from his pocket. The wallet contained \$80 in cash, plus debit

and credit cards, the victim said.

T-pain

A crew of lowlifes stole \$490 worth of clothing from a Fulton Street store on April 5, authorities stated.

Owners of the shop between Rockwell Place and Hudson Avenue said the gang came in at 11:28 am and started grabbing the merchandise — including sweatshirts, sweatpants, and Burberry T-shirts, according to a police report.

When an employee tried to stop the galoots from leaving, one of the toughs punched him in the face and spit on him, cops said. Another of the scoundrels tried to open the cash register during the melee, police said.

Hungry man

A famished goon robbed a 36-year-old Chinese-food delivery guy on Lefferts Place on April 6, police said.

The worker was trying to make a delivery between Grand and Classon avenues at 9:25 pm when the villain snagged his food and \$47, the victim told cops. The bandit fled into a nearby building, he said.

Fare free

Police arrested a 21-year-old woman for fighting with officers after they caught her beating a fare in the Nevins Street subway station on April 5, officers said.

Cops saw the woman duck under a turnstile at 12:55 pm according to a report. When they approached her, she became agitated and refused to take her hands out of her pockets, police said.

The officers tried to put the accused in cuffs and she fought back, punching one of the cops in the face, the report said.

Bike burgled

A burglar stole a bike out of a Clermont Avenue hallway on March 31 and took a second bike out of a basement, but left it behind, according to authorities.

The 37-year-old victim said she went to sleep at 12:05 am in the apartment between DeKalb and Willoughby avenues and woke up to find the one bicycle gone, and the other one moved.

Glass go

A vandal and bandit busted into a car parked near the corner of Willoughby and Fleet streets on April 1, making off with some exercise DVDs, a portable music player, some clothes, and a checkbook.

The 47-year-old victim reported she parked the car at 2:45 pm and, when she returned at 4 pm, her rear passenger-side window was smashed and a bag was missing from inside.

Not so fast

Cops caught a teen who they say snatched a woman's cellphone on S. Portland Avenue on April 3.

The 23-year-old victim told cops she was near DeKalb Avenue at 3:40 pm when the 17-year-old snatched her phone from her hand and tried to scam. Officers caught him before he could get very far and arrested him, according to a report.

— **Matthew Perlman**

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook

Pay-dough

Cops cuffed a man who they say stole hundreds of dollars from a woman at a hotel on Hamilton Avenue on April 1.

The suspect, 20, got into an argument with the 21-year-old victim near Bowne Street around 8:40 pm and looted \$200 from her bag, according to cops. The woman said she tried to stop the guy, but he pushed her and fled. The victim then followed him and dialed 911, cops reported.

The guy was charged with robbery and harassment

Car fume

A man was arrested for breaking the door of a car-service business on Columbia Street between April 4 and April 6, cops said.

A surveillance camera at the business near Verona Street caught the 28-year-old fellow kicking in the glass door sometime between April 4 at 6 am and April 6 at 12:10 am, according to police, who say they arrested the man at 12:15 am inside the business.

Sweater divest

Police are looking for a formerly under-dressed thief who they say stole two sweaters from a clothing store on Smith Street on April 6, according to police.

A 24-year-old worker said the sticky-fingered fashion plate swiped the garments off a clothing rack at the establishment between Butler and Douglass streets around 6:12 pm and ran down Smith Street.

The 39-year-old man stands 5-foot-7 and weighs 200 pounds, according to a report.

Open Sesame

A burglar stole a laptop and iPad from a Baltic Street apartment on April 4, cops said.

The prowler crept in through a window of the abode between Smith and Court streets sometime between 9 am and 11:09 pm, when the 33-year-old victim came home and noticed that his MacBook Pro, iPad Mini, and \$10 in cash missing, according to a police report.

The front door and window of the apartment were both open and unlocked, police stated.

Silent violence

A band of goons attacked a woman on Columbia Street on April 5, cops said.

The 19-year-old woman was near Verona Street on her way home from work when a group of women assaulted her on the street, according to police. The victim was unwilling to give the girls and boys in blue any further information, they said.

— **Megan Riesz**

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

Anti-postal

A maniac punched and robbed a mail carrier when he would not hand over a package on 72nd Street on March 31, authorities stated.

The delivery man told police he was dropping off a package between 12th and 13th avenues at around 1:40 pm when the parcel pincher approached him, claiming the delivery was his.

But when the carrier asked for some identification, the ruffian punched him in the face, grabbed the package, jumped into a green Bavarian Motor Works ride driven by an accomplice, and sped off.

The civil servant sustained a cut to his right eye and right hand, but he declined medical treatment, police noted.

Bangle burglar

A jewelry jacker made off with two bracelets worth \$3,010 from an 86th Street store on April 1, cops said.

The owner of the store between Fourth and Fifth avenues was showing the thief his wares at about 5:30 pm when the scoundrel snatched two bracelets from the counter and fled, according to a report.

The man is described as standing 5-feet-8 and weighing 180 pounds. He sports a beard and was last seen wearing a gray jogging suit, according to law enforcement officials.

Blingy bandit

A burglar made off with \$3,660 worth of jewelry after breaking into a woman's 76th Street home on April 2, according to cops.

The lady said she left

her abode between Fourth and Fifth avenues at 12:45 pm and, when she returned around 6 pm, someone had broken in through her front window and made off with 17 baubles, police say.

— **Max Jaeger**

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint–Northside

Donut hole

A prowler broke into a donut shop on McGuinness Boulevard and store more than \$2,000 out of the cash registers sometime overnight on March 29, according to a report.

The manager of the store between Freeman and Eagle streets said she came to work at 4:50 am on March 30 to find two of the registers wide open and the money missing.

She walked into the back and found the file cabinet broken into and the money also missing from there, cops said.

Trashed

A bully beat a man with a garbage-can lid at a Skillman Avenue shelter on April 2 — because someone else told him to turn his music down, according to cops.

The 67-year-old victim reported he was lying in his bed at the shelter between Woodpoint Road and Kingsland Avenue at 6:25 am when a fellow boarder told the goon in the bathroom to turn down his music.

The 39-year-old bully roared out of the bathroom, grabbed the implement, and beat him.

The victim reached for a paint roller to defend himself and got socked in the stomach for his trouble, police reported.

Brutal

Cops cuffed a 41-year-old man who they say beat a woman and banged her head against the floor of a Richardson Street apartment on March 30.

The 37-year-old victim told police that she was arguing with the man in the abode between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street at 10:10 pm when he suddenly started to strangle her and banged her head against the floor repeatedly.

The woman suffered cuts and bruises to her neck and face, police reported.

Emergency services arrived and treated her on the scene, according to authorities. Police charged the man with assault.

90TH PRECINCT

Southside–Bushwick

Both barrels

Police are searching for a pair of gunmen who shot two residents of a Flushing Avenue public housing development on April 2.

The gunmen entered the building between Bushwick Avenue and Humboldt Street at 1:30 am and ran up to a second-floor landing, where they shot a 20-year-old man twice in the right torso and once in the left leg, and a 23-year-old man on the bottom of the right foot, cops said.

Doctors expect both men to survive.

Scrappy fighter

A scrap-metal collector named Q allegedly attacked a man with a metal pole on Grattan Street on March 31.

The 47-year-old victim told police that he was arguing with the scrapper at the corner of Porter Avenue at 9:30 am when the scavenger suddenly whacked him on the side of the head with a pole, splitting open his left ear and making his face swell up.

— **Danielle Furfaro**



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COMEDY

‘Biased’ in BK

Politically minded standup comedian W. Kamau Bell has two simple goals — make people laugh and provide a platform for uncomfortable post-show conversations.

“When I was in Portland, there were two friends walking out, and one said, ‘That was the best comedy show I’ve ever seen,’ and the other said, ‘That was the worst comedy show I’ve ever seen.’ Bingo! Mission accomplished. Those two guys just learned something very important about each other that they wouldn’t have otherwise,” said the comic, who will be at the Bell House in Gowanus on April 15.

That mind-set has been the driving force behind Bell’s work both on stage and on screen. For two years, he was the host of “Totally Biased,” a late-night show on FX that featured pointed commentary on race and politics, and segments that talked to female New Yorkers about getting catcalled by men.

The show was cancelled late last year — a disappointing turn of events for Bell, but one that has allowed him to return to the stage, where he is joining a cadre of standups such as Hari Kondabolu and Cameron Esposito that refuse to shy away from tough and funny discussions on hot-button issues.

Bell said being part of this new movement is exciting, but it may take a while before their work has a significant impact on the world at large.

“Until someone like Hari is one of the biggest comics in the country, it’s still a very niche product,” he said.

But at the very least, Bell is confident that the message of “Totally Biased” has not been forgotten since the show went off the air. He said it has found an unlikely new platform — as a classroom teaching aid.

“The thing that I hear most is teachers telling me they use clips of my show in their classes,” Bell said. “That’s what I wanted the show to be; to show the next generation this is what you’re trying to work towards or what you should be fighting against.”

W. Kamau Bell at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third streets in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, www.thebellhouseny.com]. April 15 at 8 pm, \$15.

— Robert Ham

BOOKS

Chilling read

There is nothing vanilla about Ample Hills Creamery.

The Prospect Heights ice cream parlor does stock some in its freezer, but it is better known for its zany flavor combinations — such as “the munchies,” made with potato chips, pretzels, Ritz crackers, and mini M&Ms, or the “coco berry blast,” which crams strawberry malted ice cream with Cocoa Puffs and Cocoa Pebbles cereals.

Now the husband and wife team behind the store is giving fans the inside scoop on their freaky frozen treats with their new cookbook, “Ample Hills Creamery: Secrets and Stories from Brooklyn’s Favorite Ice Cream Shop,” which the pair will launch at Dumbo’s PowerHouse Arena on April 16. The book doesn’t just contain the recipes for some of the store’s best-selling flavors, the duo explained, it also includes customer-submitted creations, games, and puzzles.

“We didn’t want to write a traditional cookbook — there are so many good ones already,” Jackie Cuscuna, who co-owns Ample Hills with her husband Brian Smith, and also works as a high-school teacher. “We wanted to create something aimed at families and activities for children to do, telling a story that’s bigger than just recipes.”

The dessert-loving duo employed the services of local writer and illustrator Lauren Kaelin, who drew all the images in the book, and also filled its pages with Brooklyn-centric puzzles.

The borough is also a key ingredient in Ample Hills’ success — Cuscuna and Smith source ingredients from local shops such as One Girl Cookies, Brooklyn Roasting Company, and Liddabit Sweets.

“Ample Hills Creamery” launch at PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. between Front and Water streets, (718) 666-3049, powerhouse-arena.com]. April 16 at 7 pm. Free.

— Melissa Kravitz

(718) 260-2500 Brooklyn Paper’s eside to the Borough April 11–17, 2014



All aboard the chuck wagon: “The Tower” actors Courtney Fenwick, Andrew Krug, and Rebecca Hirota sink their teeth into some tasty treats.

Flesh for fantasy

Williamsburg play offers trippy take on the Donner Party

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

This play will stick to your ribs. Beginning April 12, a theater company known for its brutal productions will present “The Tower” at Williamsburg’s Standard ToyKraft, offering a surrealist look at the travails of the Donner Party. And the play won’t just be about cannibalism, the writer promised.

“The whole play is not about eating people in gory ways,” said playwright Adam Scott Mazer of the AntiMatter Collective, which has previously staged a zombie Western and a post-apocalyptic horror story about robots. “It is more about the things that are going on in people’s minds and

THEATER

“The Tower” at Standard ToyKraft (722 Metropolitan Ave., third floor, between Manhattan and Graham avenues in Williamsburg, www.standard-toykraft.org). April 12–26 at 8 pm. \$15.

the building tension and desperation that causes people to act this way. I thought it would be good fodder for drama.”

The play depicts the doomed voyage of a group of American pioneers who left their homes in 1846 with the intention of settling in California. The party, traveling in a caravan of wagons, encountered harsh conditions along the way and eventually resorted to eating other members

of the group to stay alive.

In the process of putting the production together, Mazer, director Philip Gates, and co-creator Maya Rook spent months researching the history of the Donner Party — even traveling to the Donner Pass and Donner Lake in California to talk with historians.

Each section of the play is designed after a different tarot card, explained Gates. The play’s title is named for the tower card, which represents chaos, because that is the overall theme of the piece.

“Everything needs to come down so that something new can take place,” he said.

The play has a decidedly psychedelic bent, with time moving both backwards

and forwards, and some scenes representing fantastical events happening in the characters’ minds.

“I knew it should not be a completely realistic play,” said Mazer. “Watching people slowly freeze to death is not very compelling.”

But one element that will be realistic in the play will be the plethora of cannibalism, Gates said. To make those scenes appropriately gruesome, the production brought in Stephanie Cox-Williams, who is well known in the film and theater worlds for creating top-notch gore.

“We wanted to make it as realistic as possible,” said Gates. “There are prosthetics and blood capsules and, of course, food.”



Mr. Manners: Nathan Pyle, author of “NYC Basic Tips and Etiquette,” says more tourists should visit Brooklyn.

The polite penman

Etiquette expert offers Bklyn tips

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

Good manners are going viral!

Five years ago, illustrator and T-shirt designer Nathan Pyle picked up and moved from Ohio to New York City to follow his dream of writing for television and movies. Instead, he has made a name for himself on the internet. After learning the ins and outs of his new city, Pyle began drawing short, funny comics offering practical tips and etiquette advice for other New Yorkers in March last year, and posting them online. His black-and-white comics — covering topics such as appropriate

public displays of affection on the sidewalk and secret passageways to Chipotle — quickly blew up, and now Pyle has turned them into a book, which he will be presenting at Greenpoint’s Word bookstore on April 17.

The Brooklyn Paper caught up with the manners-minded artist to discuss how Brooklynites can adjust their driving habits and why Manhattan trekkers should walk across the entire Brooklyn Bridge at least once in their lives.

Megan Riesz: Are any of your comics inspired by Brooklyn?

Nathan Pyle: Absolutely. One of the drawings I have is this idea of tourists who wander around Midtown, go home and say they

TALKS

Nathan Pyle presents “NYC Basic Tips and Etiquette” at Word bookstore [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096, www.word-brooklyn.com]. April 17 at 7 pm. Free.

“explored New York.” The idea of exploring New York without leaving Midtown Manhattan is popular. I walk to Brooklyn two or three times a week, and it’s great. I absolutely love going to Brooklyn. I have a drawing about the “louder borough” versus the outer boroughs, in that it’s a re-

freshing thing to go out to Brooklyn. I want to encourage people to step outside of Manhattan.

MR: What etiquette tips should Brooklynites adopt?

NP: When it comes to Brooklyn specifically, I do feel for my brothers and sisters on the bikes. I’m more often a pedestrian, but when it comes to bicycles, I have friends that bike in Brooklyn and just like in Manhattan, it can be a challenge. I really try hard to be mindful as a pedestrian or a driver when it comes to making room for bicyclists and being careful with car doors.

MR: Any tips for navigating the Brooklyn Bridge?

NP: The majority of traffic is on the Manhattan pass. A lot of people walk in the middle and don’t walk all the way to Brooklyn. If you can get through the clogged-up part — which is the Manhattan part of the bridge — you can start to pick up speed. Obviously, avoid a really beautiful nice day when people are

See **TIPS** on page 8

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY
April 11



Use your illusion
Nothing up your sleeve for Friday night? Have a magical evening at Galapagos Art Space's "Wonder-show," where street performer Master Lee, sleight of hand artist Ben Nemzer, conjurer Eric Walton, comedic magician John Graham, and other masters of the dark arts will perform mysterious acts — with a little burlesque thrown in.

8 pm at Galapagos Art Space [16 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 222-8500, www.galapagosartspace.com]. \$15–\$20.

SATURDAY
April 12

Battle song
“Songwriter Death-match” is not as gruesome as it sounds. Songwriter Dave Keener gathers an eclectic mix of other singer-songwriters together, and each plays a short set. This edition includes old-time folkster Robin Aigner, Americana artist Karen Dahlstrom, and comedian-musician Rob Paravonian.

7 pm at Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in South Slope, (718) 768-0131, www.freddysbar.com]. Free.



SUNDAY
April 13



Book groupies
The motto of the “Silent Reading Party NYC” is “reading allowed, not aloud.” Book worms bring their current literature to Muchmore's bar in Williamsburg, than read alongside others in companionable silence. That is really all there is to it.

7 pm at Muchmore's [2 Havemeyer St. at Ninth Street in Williamsburg, (718) 576-3222, www.muchmoresnycj]. Free.

TUESDAY
April 15

Bklyn in the House
Say “Hello Brooklyn” when BRIC House's “Stoop Series” hosts a trio of Brooklyn hip-hop luminaries. Rapper Talib Kweli, Brooklyn Hip Hop Festival founder Wes Jackson, and music writer Nelson George will discuss the history of the borough's hip-hop scene and where it is headed next.

7 pm at BRIC House [647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 683-5600, www.bricartsmedia.org]. Free.



WEDNESDAY
April 16



Glove love
Put up your dukes, don't pull any punches, and get down to the Barclays Center to support the finest amateur boxers in New York as they slug it out for gold and glory at the finals of the Daily News Golden Gloves on April 16 and 17. The tournament has been going for three months now, so the fighters on the night will truly be the best of the best in the city.

7 pm at the Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100, www.barclayscenter.com]. \$30–\$70.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, APRIL 11

“F--- WINTER” VINTAGE POP-UP: Shed the winter blues with spring and summer vintage duds. **Free.** 10 am–7 pm. Film Biz Recycling [540 President St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus], www.cncpopshop.com.

ART, “SUBMERGED MOTHERLANDS”: Swoon creates a site-specific installation in the rotunda gallery. \$12 (suggested). 11 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

ART, “STARGAZING”: Group show featuring work from Regina Bogat, Catherine Cullen, Craig Olson, and Mary Schillio. **Free.** 11 am–6 pm. Trestle Gallery [168 7th St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 858-9069], www.trestlegallery.org.

ART, “ARCHIVES OF THE COLLECTIVE”: Selected works by Pratt second-year M.F.A. candidate. **Free.** Noon–6 pm. The Boiler at Pierogi Gallery [191 N. 14th St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg], www.pierogi2000.com.

ART, “THE STORY OF ELFRANKO WESSELS”: Multi-channel video installation by Erik Moskowitz and Amanda Trager. **Free.** 1–6 pm. Studio 10 [56 Bogart St. at Harrison Place in Bushwick, (718) 852-4396], www.studio10bogart.com.

ART, “DRESSED IN LIGHT”: Peter Le Grand's infrared nude photographs shot over the course of more than two decades. **Free.** 1–6 pm. Armature Art Space [316 Weirfield St. between Irving and Knickerbocker avenues in Bushwick, (646) 926-2764], armatureartspace.org.

ART, “THE STORY OF ELFRANKO WESSELS”: Multi-channel video installation by Erik Moskowitz and Amanda Trager. **Free.** 7–9 pm. Studio 10 [56 Bogart St. at Harrison Place in Bushwick, (718) 852-4396], www.studio10bogart.com.

DANCE, “OMBRA”: Multimedia dance performance inspired by Dante's Paradiso, embedded within a dance party. \$12. 8 pm. The Fifth Estate Bar [506 Fifth Ave. between 12th and 13th streets in Park Slope].

MUSIC, VICTOR V. GURBO & CO.: **Free.** 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

MUSIC, YUKSEK, HEADBAND & HOOLIGAN (POWERSLUG), MISAWA (SUPPLY): \$12. 11:30 pm. Glasslands [289 Kent Ave. at S. Second Street in Williamsburg], www.glasslands.com.

SAT, APRIL 12

MUSIC, POST MERIDIAN FOLK SINGER SESSIONS: Sharif Mekawy, Luis Betancourt. **Free.** 2:30 pm. Grand Victory [245 Grand St. between Driggs Avenue and Roebling



In neon: Chillwave artist Neon Indian performs a DJ set at BRIC House on April 12.

Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6610], www.thegrandvictory.com.

MUSIC, ISLE OF RHODES, THE SPANISH CHANNEL, THE COURTESY TIER, ANACORTES: \$8–\$10. 8 pm. Rock Shop [249 Fourth Ave. between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 230-5740], www.therockshopny.com.

MUSIC, AZTEC TWO-STEP: \$30–\$35. 8 pm. Union Temple [17 Eastern Pkwy between Grand Army Plaza and Underhill Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 288-5994], www.firstacoustics.org.

MUSIC, ANDREW ANDREW, NEON INDIAN (DJ SET): \$10–\$13. BRIC House Ballroom [647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 683-5600], www.bricartsmedia.org.

CRAFT FAIR: Stationery, textiles, food, jewelry, etc., from Brooklyn artists and designers. **Free.** 11 am–6 pm. PS9 School [80 Underhill Ave. between St. Mark's Avenue and Bergen Street in Prospect Heights], www.prospectheightscraftfair.com.

SCAVENGER HUNT: A series of clues leads you around the Brooklyn Museum performing mental challenges along the way. \$30. 12:30 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

PUB CRAWL: “The Great Egg Hunt”: Hunt for eggs bearing prizes: free drinks, shots, snacks, etc. 3–5 pm.

SUN, APRIL 13

FIX YOUR BIKE WORKSHOP: Fix your own bike with advice and some assistance from experienced bike mechanics. Tools provided. **Free.** 6–8 pm. (99 South 6th St. near Bedford [Under Williamsburg bridge] in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

MUSIC, JUMP THE BLINDS, REBEL RACKET, MAYBE THE WELDERS, BONES HOWELL: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

COMEDY, “THE MUPPET VAULT”: Comedy from Toughpigs.com. \$8. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

MON, APRIL 14

READING, GEORGE SAUNDERS: Author of short story collection “Tenth of December.” **Free.** 3:30 pm. St.

TUES, APRIL 15

ART, JENNI NG: Solo show by local artist raised in Manila, Philippines. **Free.** 7–10 pm. Ouchi Gallery [170 Tillary St. #105 in Downtown, (347) 987-4606], www.ouchigallery.com.

COMEDY, “THE FANCY SHOW”: Producers Michael Joyce, Langston Kerman, Lane Pieschel, Simmons McDavid and Jenny Zigrino share the stage with local talent. **Free.** 8 pm. Bar Reis [375 Fifth Ave. between Fifth and Sixth streets in Park Slope, (718) 974-2412].

MUSIC, 8556, THE J. ANDREWS BAND, DOLL MAGDALENE, MICHAEL SUE: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

WED, APRIL 16

MUSIC, LADY MARTY & ST. GILES, SUREFIRE, THE BIG SLEEP, MISSION ZERO: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.


MUSIC, WILL STRATTON (RECORD RELEASE) WITH CASSANDRA JENKINS AND SAM MOSS: \$8. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

TWIN PEAKS BINGO: Gather with fellow Twin Peaks lovers, gorge on doughnuts and Agent Cooper cocktails, and play bingo! **Free.** 8:30 pm. Videology [308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg], www.videology.info.

THURS, APRIL 17

MUSIC, INDIE DANCE SPRING EXPLOSION WITH OLYA, SWAMPA ZZ AND CUMBRE VIEJA: Cel-

See **9 DAYS** on page 8



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Listed:
SRDS

Goodnight, Pete!

Folk fest hosts sing-a-long tribute to Seeger

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

There is hope for the world — and you can find it at this Pete Seeger tribute.

This year’s Brooklyn Folk Festival will host a salute to Pete Seeger, the New York City troubadour who died earlier this year.

“Pete was such an important figure — we just wanted to pay homage,” said Stephanie Jenkins of the Jenkins Family Band, which will play Seeger’s tunes during the April 20 concert at the Bell House in Gowanus.

In the ultimate homage to Seeger, Jenkins is encouraging all concert-goers to sing along.

“That was his bread and butter — getting people to sing,” said Jenkins, who first saw Seeger live in 2004 and learned the banjo from his book “How to Play the Five-String Banjo.”

Indeed, Seeger was known for his live performances, where he got thousands of people to sing tunes with him.



Play strong, play Seeger: The late folk legend Pete Seeger will be honored with a sing-a-long at the Brooklyn Folk Festival on April 20.

“People would go to see him just to have a reason to sing together,” said Eli Smith, who is organizing the festival along with the nearby Jalopy Theatre.

More than an entertainer,

Seeger was a social activist and is credited with rescuing American music from oblivion at the dawning of the pop music era.

In the 1920s and ’30s, with the advent of the radio, many

amateur musicians the country over put down their dobros and started listening to pop radio — the phenomenon threatened the largely aural American music tradition, Smith said.

“Around the mid-20th century, highways and the radio obliterated local music,” he said.

Seeger travelled the South, learning the American canon and re-tooling it for pop audiences, effectively inventing the “folk music” genre.

For modern musicians learning the old-time catalog, Seeger is a standard-bearer and an inspiration, Smith said.

“He was the first person like us,” he said, referring to the bevy of Brooklynites picking up banjos in search of a bygone era.

As with many of today’s washboard-scrapping, fiddle-playing folk musicians, Seeger was a college-educated urbanite who sought out the American folk tradition rather than being born into it, he added.

This year’s folk fest, which will take place from April 18–20, will also highlight other old-time bands. Performances will include East River String Band with R. Crumb and Jalopy house band the Whiskey Spitters. There will also be square dancing and the festival’s annual “banjo toss.”

At the Seeger tribute, the Jenkins Family will play popular Seeger hits such as “If I Had A Hammer” and “We Shall Overcome,” so come ready to wail, Jenkins said.

“I don’t think anything else would be appropriate,” she said.

Folk talking!

With the Sixth Brooklyn Folk Festival comin’ round the mountain, it is time to bone up on your old-timey lingo. We asked the experts to explain some of the terms you might hear at the fest.

Talking trad

Festival organizer Eli Smith and banjoist Stephanie Jenkins shed some light on some of the more arcane slang and concepts associated with Americana music.

Bluegrass: A musical style invented in the 1940s that focuses on speed and technical proficiency and is played exclusively on stringed instruments.

“It’s the grandchild of old time,” Jenkins said. “Old time musicians didn’t make a lot of money, so they upped the speed and volume.”

Clawhammer: A highly percussive style of banjo playing where the player strikes strings in a downward motion with the back of the index fingernail and plucks strings with the side of the thumb.

“Clawhammer is infinitely old,” said Smith. “It comes from Africa, just like the banjo itself.”

Fiddle: A violin often tuned differently from a classical violin and used in Americana music.

“A fiddle is a violin you can spill beer on,” Jenkins said.

Hootenanny: A party or group jam session. Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie applied the term to their jam sessions after hearing a politician in Washington state use it to describe political fund-raisers.

“It’s a party where people play traditional music,” Jenkins said.

Old time: Rural American music typically played by amateur musicians and handed down through aural tradition.

“Old time is as old as America and as diverse,” Smith said.

Trad: Shorthand for “traditional music.” In the context of American music, it is interchangeable with “old time,” but the term can also refer to traditional music in any culture.



It’s hip to be square dancing: Understand the language of the square dance caller with our handy guide.

Speaking square

This year, the festival is getting real rural with an old-fashioned square dance on April 20. Musician and dancer Kristin Andreassen will “call” the dance, meaning she will holler instructions for dancers to follow. Andreassen said the hoedown ain’t tough, and it is her job as a caller to make it as simple as possible.

“Beginners are welcome,” she said. “Just show up with a partner

and wear comfortable shoes.”

Here are a few calls defined so you can step into the square like a pro.

Dosey do: Walk around your partner without touching and return to your spot.

“Dosey do means back to back, so you go back to back,” Andreassen said.

Allemande left your corner: A group dance maneuver stemming from Baroque dance.

See **FOLK** on page 8

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Moor, please

UK theater company brings US history lesson to Dumbo

The Butcher of Flatbush Ave. Extension

What can a bunch of Brits teach a Brooklyn audience about American history? You might be surprised.

Ira Aldridge was a renowned African-American actor born in New York City in 1807. But the reason it has taken London's Tricycle Theatre Company to put his story in the spotlight stateside is because Aldridge never achieved great fame in his homeland. Rather, the accomplished Shakespearean thespian was the toast of Europe, where he played weighty roles such as King Lear, Macbeth, and Richard III on stages across the continent to great acclaim.

Now, almost 150 years after he passed away, Aldridge might finally become a big name in his hometown, thanks to Tricycle's fantastic production of "Red Velvet," playing at Saint Ann's Warehouse in Dumbo through April 20.

Aldridge's storied 40-something-year career is a lot to pack into a single play, and "Red Velvet" does not even attempt it. Instead, the production — first staged in London in 2012 and now making its US premiere — opens with the elderly actor at the end of his life, backstage before a performance in Poland, then flashes back

to his ill-fated stint playing Othello at London's Theatre Royal (now the Royal Opera House) in 1833.

Aldridge had already been well received at regional theatres around England, and would go on to play many of Europe's most prestigious stages. But in London at the time — just months before Parliament would abolish slavery throughout the British Empire — the establishment did not take kindly to a black man taking on the Bard, and his performance was eviscerated in the press.

Adrian Lester (if you watch a lot of BBC America, you are probably familiar with his work), who himself portrayed Othello with a major British theater company last year, is a formidable Aldridge, playing the role with both charm and pathos.

But much of "Red Velvet" explores how the cast and crew of the 1933 production deals with such an audacious casting choice — not to mention the subsequent fallout — and this 2014 ensemble is more than equal to the task, delivering nuanced performances that see the artists weigh their own ethics against the future of their careers.

It isn't all doom and gloom, though — the actors have great fun in the first half of the play spoofing the heavy-handed classical style of acting common at the time, standing like awkwardly posed statues and bel-

lowing every line to the audience with all the subtlety of a Mack truck.

The affable American actor encourages them to loosen up and modernize their style, but as one of his cast mates puts it — "The thing about the English is that we're open to a point ... We like what we know and we know what we like." As Aldridge and the audience

Get Red-y: Adrian Lester, a British actor playing an American actor in Britain, in "Red Velvet."

come to learn, he isn't just talking about dramaturgy. "Red Velvet" at Saint Ann's Warehouse [38 Water St. between Dock and Main streets in Dumbo] (718) 834-

8794, www.stannswarehouse.org. Through April 20, Tuesdays–Fridays 8 pm, Saturdays 3 pm and 8 pm, Sundays 3 pm and 7 pm. \$60–\$75.

BAR SCRAWL

By Bill Roudy

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FOLK...

Continued from page 7

"You turn to the person closest to you whose not your partner, give them your left hand like your going to arm wrestle them, and then you walk in a circle until you're back facing your partner," Andreasen said.

Ladies chain across the track: All four ladies put their right hands in middle of the square and walk around like a wheel. Then they give their left hand to the man across from them, and he turns them around, leaving them with a new partner.

"Sixth Annual Brooklyn Folk Festival" at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510, www.brooklyn-folkfest.com]. April 18–20. \$15 afternoon shows, \$20 evening shows, \$30 full-day pass, \$75 three-day all-festival pass.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

celebrate spring with a live music dance party. \$8, 7:30 pm. Bar Matchless [557 Manhattan Ave. at Driggs Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383–5333], www.bar-matchless.com.

MUSIC, K MEKONEN, KENNY ORLANDO, VVS VERBAL, DYSFUNKS-HUNAL FAMILIEE, LAFAYETTE STOKELY: \$13, 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599–1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

THEATER, "HAMLET – THE BACKYARD BROOKLYN EXPERIENCE": The Gross Masons perform the Shakespeare classic in a backyard, with complimentary wine. \$10, 8 pm. (983 Hancock St. Apt. #1 between Broadway and Bushwick Avenue in Bushwick), www.facebook.com/events/615268021885529/.

FRI, APRIL 18

SPORTS, JORDAN BRAND CLASSIC: Three epic match ups featuring talented young basketball players. \$10–\$85, 2:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618–6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

THEATER, BROWN GIRLS BURLESQUE: Multimedia theatrical spectacle based on reality TV. \$20–\$25, 8 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488–1624], www.brooklyn.liu.edu/KumbleTheater.

MUSIC, "LAZERPOP": Mustard Pimp, Run DMT, Cobra Kramers: \$12–\$15, 11:30 pm. Glasslands (289 Kent Ave. at S. Second Street in Williamsburg), www.glasslands.com.

SAT, APRIL 19

MUSIC, TRIO FERAL: Part of BAMcfe. Free, 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636–4100], www.bam.org.

FILM, "RIDDLES OF THE SPHINX": 1977 film directed by Laura Mulvey and Peter Wollen. \$8–\$13, 2, 7 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636–4100], www.bam.org.

TIPS...

Continued from page 5

taking photos. It's just going to frustrate you if you're trying to walk. I'll actually walk to the Manhattan Bridge or Williamsburg Bridge.

MR: Are New Yorkers really as rude to tourists as we're reputed to be?

NP: I would say no. People are very, very helpful. The truth is that New Yorkers are simply commuting while you're being a tourist. We're using the city for two very different things.

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OLD...

Continued from page 1

part of the club for 25 years and whose father Frank Spinner spent 16 years as president before passing away in 2005. “We try to teach people about its history.”

A life-long membership runs \$50 and the only criteria for joining is that a person must have lived or worked in Brooklyn for at least 25 consecutive years. That said, group gatekeepers do not exactly pore over old tax returns to verify that prospects are the genuine article.

“We kind of use the honor system,” Spinner said.

Membership peaked in 1922 at around 12,000 and the group still claims around 5,000 members today, Spinner said.

Certified Old Brooklynites meet once a month to talk about the bygone days. The long bygone days.

About 25 stalwarts turned out for this month’s meeting, which was held in Borough Hall under portraits of Brooklyn’s forebears. Robert Furman of the Brooklyn Preservation Council gave a talk about Fort Defiance in which sat on a small island off the coast of Red Hook. The hill-top outpost gave Americans a key advantage in the Battle of Brooklyn, he said.

A meandering conversation followed, some of which revolved around the naming of Brooklyn streets.

“There is a street named for every city in New York State,” one member said.

“Williamsburg has streets named for the signers of the Declaration of Independence,” another explained.

“But they spelled ‘Keap’ wrong,” a third added, referring to early planners’ misreading of Thomas McKean’s name on the document.

The remark was met with knowing laughter.

Senior moments

Can you tell New Brooklyn from Old?

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

The Society of Old Brooklynites has defined what it means to be an Old Brooklynite. But in New Brooklyn, what is old is new and what is new can look very old. See if you can figure which era each of these photos is from, choosing between:

New Brooklyn, the modern age in which artists, entrepreneurs, and bohemians are digging out and polishing up old fashions and technology;

Old Brooklyn, the contemporary but backward-looking world of the Old Brooklynites;

Really Old Brooklyn, the domain of photos that are grainy and black-and-white, without Photoshop.

Write your answers below.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



1. **New Brooklyn.** Re-enactors at the Pter Claesen Wyckoff House in East Flatbush teach visitors about Brooklyn's agrarian past.

2. **Old Brooklyn.** Tony Ibellei had no difficulty passing the entrance test to become an Old Brooklynite. He has called the borough home for his whole life.

3. **Old Brooklyn.** Jehoshaphat Forshale is a card-carrying Old Brooklynite.

4. **Really Old Brooklyn.** Gus Vlahavas worked at Prospect Heights' Tom's Restaurant for 62 years before retiring in 2009. The photo is not dated, but it is undoubtedly Really Old Brooklyn.

5. **New Brooklyn.** The Bandana Splits are a throwback girl group. Here they celebrate the release of their debut album at the Brooklyn Farmacy, a retro soda fountain that opened in 2010 in Carroll Gardens.

6. **Really Old Brooklyn.** William C. Redfield was a steel and iron baron in Brooklyn in the last two decades of the 1800s and became Brooklyn's public works commissioner in 1902. He went on to serve as commerce secretary to President Woodrow Wilson.

Furman explained that Red Hook gets its name from the shape of the land and the color of the soil there. He added that Bay Ridge used to be called “Yellow Hook” until an outbreak of yellow

fever prompted residents to rethink the moniker.

So it went for hours. Each Old Brooklynite cares about particular aspects of borough history and, at meetings, they all go around the room shar-

ing pet factoids.

“My history revolves around the Village of Brooklyn,” Ibellei said, referring to what is now Brooklyn Heights and Dumbo. “Because I live down there.”

BRIDGE...

Continued from page 1

ect, but did not adopt any of the requests, despite strong support for them from the community board.

“We went to bat for Concord Village residents,” said Robert Perris, the panel’s district manager. “But we were unsuccessful in getting the changes the people there thought were most important.”

The project will totally rededicate the pedestrian and bike path leading off the bridge, widening it and replacing the so-called “cattle chute” of cement-and-metal barriers with trees and plants. It also eliminates one of two rows of parked cars on a service road on the Manhattan-bound side of Adams, moving the bridge traffic one lane closer to Concord Village, which some residents say will increase the car noise to unbearable levels.

“It’s so loud already,” said Kamila Kiszko, whose apartment faces Adams Street.

The noise and soot produced by the constant traffic is currently so bad that Kiszko sleeps with a white-noise machine and almost never opens her windows, she said.

“It’s only going to get worse,” she said.

Residents of the apartment complex had asked the bean counters at the transportation department to add a waist-high cement barrier to separate the service road from the bridge entrance. The city’s latest mock-ups omit the barrier, but do replace a seven-inch curb on the block with a two-foot-wide, one-foot-tall planter.

In his letter to the community board, borough roads commissioner Joseph Palmieri said the change was a big step but that anything more would make the bridge approach feel like a Brooklyn-Queens Expressway on-ramp again.

“We have made a significant design change,” he wrote, describing the new solution as a way to create “a more substantial buffer between the service road and the main line without creating a highway-like environment.”

The expansion of the median would mean losing a bike lane on the service road, which the community board was not happy about.

In a response to the city’s decision, Shirley McRae, the board’s chairwoman, wrote that she would rather see the original curb than the city’s latest scheme.



Concord Village residents are rallying in opposition to part of the city’s Brooklyn Bridge approach overhaul plan.

“I do not believe this modification to the median will provide the protection desired by the community,” she wrote. “Furthermore, the modest change in design comes at the expense of the bike lane.”

The board also called on the city to conduct tests to measure the impact of the lane change and the construction noise, but the roads czar said he does not have to, so he won’t.

“The project was found in 2010 to fall into a category of projects exempted from detailed environment review,” Palmieri wrote in the letter.

Some Concord Villagers said they like the project overall, but bristled at the brush-off.

“They’re basically saying, ‘We know better than the community,’” said David Cerron, another resident of the complex. “No one saying the project shouldn’t go forward. We just want it done responsibly.”

The only recommendation not altered significantly or outright rejected by the city was participation in the Percent for Art Program, which would use one percent of the project’s budget on public artwork.

The first phase of the Gateway project will cost the city an estimated \$19.5 million, and is expected to begin by the end of the year.

ATLANTIC...

Continued from page 1

dangerous driving infractions. He also emphasized that good driving is a learned behavior.

“Education is a long-term solution,” Chan said. “But our officers will be doing enforcement out there now.”

The shift would increase travel times from the water to the Queens line by three minutes to 19 minutes, assuming a driver was able to hit green lights the entire way.

The new speed limit will go into effect by the end of the month, Trottenberg said.

The city is also exploring the installation of speed cameras to boost enforcement even further, but their hands are tied by state rules that limit placement of the cameras, she said.

“We’d like to have local control over the number of speed cameras and where they go,” she said.

Road safety activists are thrilled to see their years of warning about the dangers of the road, which in 2012 and 2013 saw 843 crashes between the water and Flatbush Avenue alone, bearing fruit.



Pedestrians could soon walk easier at hairy intersections such as Hoyt Street when the speed limit goes down to 25 miles per hour.

“There’s no place more appropriate for an arterial slow zone,” said Eric McClure, founder of the Park

Slope Street Safety Partnership. “This shows that the administration is committed to making the streets safer.”

Atlantic Yards mega-development, telling him to “go back up to Pleasantville,” McClure said.

Brooklynite or no, Barzilai made some good points on the hot-button mega-development at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues, in McClure’s estimation.

“His epitaph will read,

‘Here lies Tal Barzilai — so right about Atlantic Yards, so wrong about bike lanes,’” he said.

Barzilai left the Borough Hall hearing before we could talk to him. An online phone directory lists a Tal Barzilai in Pleasantville, N.Y. but he could not be reached for additional comment.

BATS...

Continued from page 1

dated in the logging.

The felled trees stood on Cherry Street and Vandervoort Avenue near the bridge, and on Meeker Avenue between Kingsland Avenue and Varick Street. Crews also removed 93 trees on the Queens side of the bridge.

The state is supposed to start construction this fall on the bridge, which carries Brooklyn-Queens Expressway commuters over New-

town Creek from Greenpoint to Queens. State engineers say that their plan to replace the entire bridge will take until 2018, meaning they have pushed it back a year since the summer of 2013. During construction, the Brooklyn side of the bridge, including Dougherty Park, is slated to become a way station for construction gear.

Roads officials promised to replant twice as many trees as they chopped down when the project is complete.

Left out of the bubble

Activists stop traffic in name of affordable digs

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Thousands of new apartments have gone up Downtown over the past decade, but so have area rents, and protesters are demanding the city force developers to include cheap digs in the next towers being built.

Demonstrators swarmed neighborhood streets last Thursday morning, blocking traffic on Flatbush Avenue and calling for more cheap digs and higher wages for construction workers.

“If they’re going to get our tax dollars, they should use it right,” said Lenny Anselmo, a worker with the Construction and General Building Laborers’ Union’s Local 79.

About 100 activists, residents, and union members turned out for the April 3 rally and march, which weaved around Downtown streets and stopped in front of large-scale residential buildings that do not include affordable housing units and at construction sites using non-union labor.

The demonstrators raised the issue of affordable housing ahead of a plan on the subject that Mayor DeBlasio is expected to release on May 1, detailing how he aims to create 200,000 low-rent pads citywide.

A conglomerate of local community groups going by the name Real Affordability for All organized the demonstration and issued a report detailing the number of affordable housing units built in Downtown Brooklyn over the last few years.

Sixty-one residential development projects in the area received tax-breaks from the



Activists want developers to set aside more housing for low-income Brooklynites when they get city tax breaks.

city between 2008 and 2012 and only five of those contain so-called “affordable” units, the report said. In total, developers built 4,395 units of housing with the city’s help, and provided only 257 units priced below-market-rate, according to the report.

Those rallying said the city should get a better bang for their buck — which they said amounts to \$158 million in tax subsidies over the next 25 years.

“Our city is being sold to the highest bidder at the expense of its citizens,” said

Keisha Jacobs, a Crown Heights resident and organizer with the Urban Home-steadying Assistance Board, a housing advocacy group. “It’s almost giving it away.”

The rally started at the intersection of Myrtle Avenue and Flatbush Avenue Extension, between the Toren and Avalon Fort Greene, neither of which contain any so-called “affordable” rentals — below-market-rate condos at the Toren started at \$285,000, according to streeteasy.com — or used union labor, the group said.

“All these buildings were put up non-union,” said construction worker and lifelong Fort Greene resident Lecarl Ellison, looking around at the high-rises. “And we still can’t afford to live in them.”

More affordable housing is in the pipeline, according to Downtown’s biggest business boosters.

Of the 3,300 units of housing being built now, 420 will be “affordable,” and of the 9,200 units that are planned but not yet under construction, 2,900 will be “affordable,” according to the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership.

The march stopped in front of the Bklyn Gold buildings on Gold Street between Tillary and Concord streets, where rabble-rousers shouted at the buildings and occupants who crossed their path. Former Bushwick resident Barbara Smith addressed the crowd, her words echoed by the group in the style of Occupy Wall Street protesters, saying she had to move to Queens because she could no longer afford the rents in her home borough.

“It hurts my heart,” she said. “I can no longer afford to live here.”

The march then blocked traffic for a few minutes at the intersection of Tillary and Flatbush, while protesters unfurled a banner reading “Affordability For All.” Police shooed the group along and the marchers then headed to the Watchtower properties at the intersection of Pearl and Prospect streets. Kushner Companies purchased the buildings last year and a redevelopment is in the works.

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BP PARENT

Siri-ously, she’s a mom



Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

Is it possible that Siri is a better mother than I am?

Take the other afternoon. Home from school, my oldest didn’t quite make it to the kitchen, where I was working with a friend. He stopped in the living room, I imagined to play on his iPhone peacefully without my prying.

But then he was speaking aloud, and there seemed to be a voice in response.

“Who are you talking to?” I yelled out.

“Siri,” he shouted.

I looked at my friend, there with me at the table, both of us in front of Macs, iPhones handy to answer texts and e-mails and the very occasional call.

“Oh my God, he’s talking to Siri,” I said. “It’s just like that movie...”

I didn’t see “Her,” maybe in part because the concept itself hit way close to home — the ability one might have these days to form a love bond with a disembodied computer-generated persona.

“What’s he saying?” she asked, laughing.

I couldn’t hear, but I could only imagine. The boys often try to test Siri’s patience, to say rude, crude things to her that will make her reprimand them.

“That’s not very nice...” she might say, if they tell her she’s stupid or something far worse. Her programmers are clearly cognizant of the need to protect their technological progeny, like one might actually protect a real person. Siri is firm but patient, and doesn’t really take a lot of s---.

“Siri’s good,” I said. “She doesn’t accept bad manners. It’s a good thing we have her on our side. Maybe she’ll teach them.”

Excellent. Thanks Apple. Good to have the help.

I suppose this is the purpose of technology, to replicate human actions without the messy unpredictable emotional responses of a real human. It is fairly black-and-white: certain words are unacceptable. Period.

As a real living breathing mom, I sometimes let things slide. I am busy answering e-mails or texts, or I have a column to write, so the not-so-nice things my boys might say,

the curses or the cut-downs, might slip by me. Not Siri. No sir. She flatly refuses to put up with certain words.

She corrects them with a “Now, now,” or a “After all I’ve done for you...”

There is a lot I could learn from Siri’s calm consistent demeanor. She never yells. She is informative yet not condescending. She even has a sense of humor.

“Ha ha,” she says. “That’s funny.”

Moving forward, Apple

could definitely go places with this technology to help us moms even further. Maybe we could just plug in our “Good Mother” app to respond to all of our children’s difficult life questions with a straight-up, hard-line approach. It is hard to decide whether to let your kids go to the park alone? Let Siri decide. Not sure what time bedtime should be? Siri’s your girl.

The danger, of course, is that Siri doesn’t provide so much in the way of intimacy, the true close bonds that can only exist in three dimensions. This morning, for example, when my son woke up, I went and cuddled with him on the couch. I kissed his cheek and I thought, “Some things can never be replaced with robots.”

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